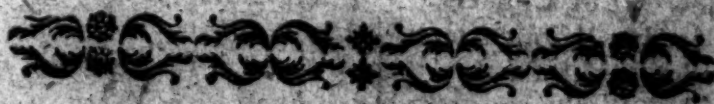




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OF
FORTUNATUS.



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HISTORY
OF
FORTUNATUS.

The Lady Fortune gave him such a purse in
Spain,
That, when 'twas empty, strait was fill'd
again.

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THE
HISTORY

FORTUNATUS.

CHAP. I.
Of the Birth of Fortunatus.

IN the famous isle of Cyprus, there is a stately city called Famagosta, where once lived a wealthy citizen, named Theodorus, whose relations left him great riches. His parents dying when he was young, he addicted himself to all manner of pleasure and pastimes; often frequenting princes courts, where he wasted great part of his riches in riotous living, to the grief of his relations, who thinking to make him quit these courses, determined to marry him to a noble and rich citizen's daughter, nam'd Graciana, and with the consent of all parties they were married in a sumptuous

manner, and the wedding kept with great feasting, and Theodorus lived with his spouse very virtuously for some time, to the content of all their relations.

In a year after this marriage, Gratiana was brought to bed of a son who was christened Fortunatus. Theodorus soon after began to follow his former bad courses, so that he was obliged to sell and mortgage his lands till he had wasted his estate; and, falling into extream poverty, he was not able to keep any servant, Gratiana being obliged to dress her own meat, and wash her cloaths herself. Theodorus and his wife sitting at a poor dinner, and the father beholding his son could hardly refrain from weeping, which when his son perceived, being then eighteen years old and expert in hunting, hawking, & playing on the lute, which were his chief pastimes, he spoke to his father, and said, Dear father, what ails you? for I observe when you behold me you seem sad: have I, sir, any vway offended you? His father answered, Dear son you are not the cause of my grief; but myself am the cause of the pinching poverty I am brought to. When I call to mind the great vwealth and honour I lately enjoyed, and consider how unable I now am to succour thee, my only child, this it is that vexeth me day and night: and the

persons that I spent my goods upon, now
sight me and refrain my company.

Fortunatus answered, Beloved father, do
not take such immoderate care for me. I
am young and strong. I will travel into
far countries & try my fortune, & I hope
in God I shall be preferred. I've not been
so sadly brought up but I can shift for my-
self.

Upon this Fortunatus went from his fa-
ther's house, and travelled to the sea side,
pondering in himself, that if he was absent
from his father's sight he might not be so
grieved thereby. As he walked by the sea
side he espy'd a Venetian galley, wherein
was an earl of Flanders who had lost two
of his men. Fortunatus wishing within him-
self to be rid of his native country Cyprus,
stepped forth, and making a low obedience
to the earl, said, I understand, most noble
lord, you have lost two of your men, there-
fore I desire, if you please, to be enter-
tained in your service. Thou pleasest me
well, answered the earl; but what wages
shall I give thee? Fortunatus said, I de-
sire no wages, but to be rewarded accord-
to my deserts. These words pleased the
earl, they soon agreed, and so sailed to
Venice.

C H A P. II.

*Fortunatus sails away with the Earl,
without the Knowledge of his Parents.*

THE earl was now returned home, & joyfully received by his subjects, for he was very affable, just, and virtuous, & the other neighbouring princes welcom'd him home. Presently after his return he married the duke of Cleves's daughter, a most beautiful lady, & Fortunatus bought for the wedding, at Venice, several costly jewels, garments of velvet, silk, cloth of gold. &c.

To these nuptials resorted many lords of great estate, with many valiant knights & gentlemen, mounted on stately horses, to tilt and tournament before the noble ladies there present: and tho' there was no small number of proper & comely gentlemen to attend on the wedding, yet none was so commended for their behaviour as Fortunatus. And after the nobles had finished their triumphs and martial games the bride and bridegroom agreed to let their servants try their manhood at several pastimes for two rich jewels esteemed at a hundred crowns, and he that obtained the prize should have them, which made all glad, every one striving to do his best.

but the duke of Burgundy's servant won one, and Fortunatus the other; which displeased the other servants, who desired the duke of Burgundy's servant to challenge Fortunatus to fight him before all the ladies, who should have them both. This challenge was soon accepted by Fortunatus: and coming to the Tilt-yard, they encountered each other very briskly, till at last Fortunatus hoisted the duke's servant off his horse at his spear's length, whereon he won the victory, and obtained the jewels; which encreased the envy of the other servants, but rejoiced the earl.

Amongst the earl's servants there was a crafty old fellow, who consulted with the rest, and agreed with them for ten crowns, that he would soon make Fortunatus depart of his own accord and leave his lord; which they soon paid him down. To accomplish this, he soon insinuated himself into Fortunatus's company, pretending great friendship, and treating him highly at several great feasts of women and wine, also much praising his riches, nobility of birth, and valiant courage. and also paying the shot for Fortunatus, till at last he began to hint that he would reveal a great secret to him: That his lord had conceiv'd a great jealousy of his chamberlains (of whom Fortunatus was one) and had a de-

sign secretly to have 'em gelt. When Fortunatus heard this he was much amazed, and desired this old fellow (Robert) to tell him, how he might convey himself with speed out of the city. Robert was glad to hear this, and answered, You know that the gates of the city are shut, and there is no going out till morning. Said Fortunatus, I had rather be a vagabond than be so served. To which Robert replied, He was sorry he had told him, since should lose his good company. Fortunatus desired Robert to conceal his departure, and, much disturbed in mind, at break of day set out on horseback, with hounds following him, & having rode ten miles, he sent home the earl's hounds and horse, and bought another, that he might have no occasion to pursue him. But when the earl understood that Fortunatus was departed without his leave, not knowing the cause was offended, and demanded of his servants, if they knew the occasion of his departure; and they answering they did not; the earl said, Tho' the cause of Fortunatus's departure is concealed from me, yet I am sure he is not fled without some reason, and I would be sharply revenged on them that were the cause thereof, could I discover them.

When Robert understood that his lord was thus grieved for the departure of Fortunatus, he was in fear lest he should be discovered by some of the other servants. And now we will leave the earl of Flanders, who little thought how Robert had deceived Fortunatus.

C H A P. III.

The Travels of Fortunatus after he had left the earl.

FORTUNATUS having sent home his master's horse, travelled with all speed to Calais, where he took shipping, thinking himself hardly safe when on the midst of the sea; till at last he arrived in England. Coming to London, he met with some Cyprian merchants, his own countrymen, who riotously spent their money in gaming & wenching, so that in half a year's time they had wasted all their money; and Fortunatus having least, his spring was soonest dry.

Fortunatus being now pennyless, went to some of his landladies, where he spent his money, to borrow three crowns, saying that he would go into Flanders and fetch 400 crowns that were in his uncle's hands; but he was slighted, and none would trust

him. He desired one of his misses to trust him a quart of wine, but she denied him, and bid her servants fetch a pint of small beer to make the ass drink e'er he went. On this he conveyed himself out of England, crossed the seas, and arrived in Picardy, in France. In travelling he passed thro' a great wood, where he spent the whole day, and being benighted he saw an old house, where he hoped to find relief, but there was no creature in it. He spent the next day in travelling from one wood to another, almost starved with hunger, and the moon shining clear, he sat himself down by a fountain; but hearing a great noise in the wood, like the grunting of bears, he got up into a tree. The bears having drank, one of them, seeing Fortunatus, climbed up the tree after him, but he drew his sword, and struck the bear, so that he fell from the tree. The other beasts being gone, Fortunatus came down from the tree, and thrust his sword thro' the wounded bear, and then laying his mouth to the wound, sucked out his blood; and having a little refreshed himself, laid down, and slept until the next morning.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

The Lady Fortune gives Fortunatus a Purse, which was never without Money.

AS soon as Fortunatus awoke, he saw standing before him a beautiful lady, inuffled over the eyes, to whom he said, Sweet virgin, I beseech thee for the love of God to assist me, that I may come out of this wood; for these three days have I travelled without meat. Then she asked what countryman he was. He answered, I am a Cyprian, and poverty has constrained me to wander to seek my fortune. She said, Fear not, Fortunatus: I am the Goddess Fortune; I am endowed with six blessings, one of which, by divine permission, I will bestow on thee: they are, *wisdom, riches, strength, health, beauty, & long life*: chuse one of them quickly. Fortunatus made no long stay, but said, Then I desire riches in such plenty that I may never want.

Wish that she gave him a purse, & said, Receive this of me, and whatever country thou art in, as often as thou shalt put thy hand therein, thou shalt draw out 10 pieces of gold of the same nation's coin; and this purse shall retain its virtue as long as you & your children live: therefore esteem it accordidgly, and take special care thereof.

Fortunatus returning her many thanks for her kindness, she said, Return thanks to the giver of all good gifts, and of thy riches bestow on the poor & needy. Thar, said Fortunatus, I will willingly perform to the utmost of my power. Then she bid him follow her, and conveyed out of the wood, where he espy'd an inn, and so vanished out of his sight. Before he enter'd the inn he tried his purse, and drew forth ten crowns, at which he was glad, and joyfully entering the inn, called for meat, saying he was hungry, & would content 'em; so the host soon furnished his table. When Fortunatus had sufficiently slack'd his hunger and thirst, & rested himself some days, he discharged his host and departed.

CHAP. V.

Fortunatus buying some Horses which an Earl before had prized, is made Prisoner, and strictly examined.

TWO miles from the wood was a little town & castle, where dwelt an earl that owned the wood. Fortunatus took up his lodging in the best inn, asking the host if he could help him to some good horses. His host told him there was a merchant had several stately horses, of which

the earl had chosen three, and offered 300 crowns for them, which had been refused. Fortunatus went to his chamber, and taking 600 crowns out of his purse, bade the host send for the merchant to bring his horses to him. The host supposed he had been in jest, seeing him so meanly apparelled; at length he brought him to the merchant, & liking the horses, he bought two of those the earl had cheapened, and gave 300 crowns for them; he bought costly saddles and other furniture for them, and desired his host to get him two servants.

The earl hearing of what had happened was very angry, and sent to the innkeeper to know who had bought the horses out of his hands; and being informed that he was stranger, and no gentleman, commanded his men to lay hold on him, saying he had committed some robbery or murder: so he was seized & cast into prison. Afterwards the earl sent for Fortunatus and examin'd who he was: he answered, he was born in Cyprus, and was the son of a poor gentleman. The earl asked him, how he got so much money? He told him, he came by it honestly. Then the earl said, if he would not tell him, he'd put him to the rack. Fortunatus choosing rather to die than reveal the virtue of his purse, was put upon the rack, and being again asked, how he

came by so many fair crown; answer'd after I had wandered three days in yonder wood, I found a purse with 600 crowns in it. Then said the earl, thou vagabond, the money is mine, and thy body & goods forfeited. Gracious lord, answered he, I wist not that it was your jurisdiction. That shall not excuse thee, replied the earl, for to day I will take from thee thy goods, and to morrow thy life. Then did Fortunatus complain to himself that he had not made choice of wisdom before riches; and humbly begged his life of the earl, being willing to lose all his goods. The earl being moved to save his life, at the entreaty of some of his men, delivered to him his purse with the crowns in it; & charg'd him never more to come into his jurisdiction.

Fortunatus, rejoicing that he had so well escaped, and was not bereft of his precious purse, travelled towards his own country of Cyprus, having bought several horses and rich apparel, and several servants to attend him, and arrived at Famagosta, where it was told him his father and mother were dead. He then purchased his father's house, pulled it down, and built a large stately palace after the best model he had seen in his travels. He also built a sumptuous church, and twelve

houses for twelve priests to say divine service to dwell in. He also caused three stately tombs to be erected; one for his father, another for his mother, (whose bones, he ordered to be taken up and laid therein) and the other he reserved for himself and his heirs. After this he proposed to take him a wife.

C H A P. IV.

Fortunatts marries the Lord Nemain's youngest Daughter.

NOT far from Famagosta lived a lord who had three daughters that were excellent beauties; and the king of Cyprus resolved to bestow one of them upon Fortunatus: and having caused them to be richly attired, he gave him leave to make his choice. When *Fortunatus* had asked each of them a question, he made choice of the youngest, to the great grief of the other two sisters. The earl and countess approved of the match, only they objected against him because he had no lands: which *Fortunatus* understanding, and hearing that the earl of Ligron, who was much in debt, had a considerable estate, consisting of a castle and several

lordships, to dispose of, he purchased it of the earl for ten thousand ducats, paid down the money, and jointur'd *Cassandra*, who was to be his wife, in the same: and presented the countess her mother and her sisters with several jewels to a large value to their great content.

Then did the king proffer to keep the wedding of *Fortunatus* and *Cassandra* his bride in his court; but *Fortunatus* desired to keep it at his own palace, humbly beseeching the king & queen to honour him with their presence at the wedding. Then answered the king, I will come with my queen, and thy father and mother in law, and thy spouse, and all our retinue. Then was *Fortunatus* glad, and thanked the king.

In four days after, the king, with his nobles and attendants, came to *Fortunatus's* house. They were entertained with music and other delightful shows, in a triumphant manner: his house being adorned with costly furniture, glorious to behold. Thus continued they all day banquetting, feasting, and dancing in a sumptuous manner, and at night the bride & bridegroom were conducted to their chamber. This guesting and banqueting continued forty days; and then the king returned to his palace, infinitely satisfied with his enter-

tainment. After which Fortunatus made another great feast for the citizens and their wives.

C H A P. VII.

The Birth of Fortunatus's two Sons.

NOW Fortunatus and Cassandra lived in a joyful and happy state, wanting nothing but children; and he, knowing that the virtue of his purse would fail on his death, if he had not lawful heirs of his boby, prayed daily to God to make them fruitful. At length the Lord heard his petition, and sent him a son, who was christened Ampedo. Soon after she conceived again, and brought forth another son, whom they named Andalocia. Thus was Fortunatus very joyful, having now two fair sons, whom he caused to be carefully brought up in all accomplishments fit for gentlemen of quality.

Fortunatus having lived twelve years with his wife Cassandra, design'd

again to travel, which she much opposed; desiring him, by all the love he bore to her and his sons, not to leave them; but he, being fully resolved to travel, appeased her, promising that he would not stay long from her, and then would abide with her during life. Said she to him, pray hasten your return, for I shall pray night and day for your safety. Soon after, taking leave of his wife and children, he departed in a ship of his own, and sailed to Alexandria, and presented such rich rich gifts to the soldan, as gain'd him much favour in his dominions, where he traffick'd and bought many rich goods and jewels.

C H A P. VIII.

Fortunatus gives rich Presents to the Soldan's Servants, and gets his Wishing-bat.

FORTUNATUS was sumptuously treated by the soldan; and, after supper, desired leave to bestow

gifts on the foldan's servants; which
 being granted, he opened his purse
 underneath the table, and gave rich
 presents to them according to their
 degree, insomuch that the foldan
 marvelled; and being highly pleased,
 he told Fortunatus, that for his kind-
 ness he would shew him such variety
 of treasure that he never saw the like.
 Then he brought him into a strong
 tower, built of marble: in the first
 room were several rich vessels and je-
 wels, with great heaps of coined sil-
 ver; in the second room he shewed
 several vessels of gold, & many chests
 full of gold coined, with a wardrobe
 full of many costly garments, beauti-
 fied with many precious stones, and
 several rich golden candlesticks, set
 with carbuncles, which shone in the
 night that they gave light over all the
 room. Fortunatus admiring at all
 these great treasures and infinite riches
 prized them greatly. Then said the
 foldan, I have one jewel more which
 I prize above all these: then he took
 him into his bed chamber which was

richly adorned, and taking in his hand a small felt hat simple to behold, said, I set more by this than all the precious jewels I possess, for such another hat is not to be had. Then said Fortunatus, I would gladly know wherein its virtue consists; for to me it seems but of little worth. The soldan answered, It hath this virtue; he that hath it upon his head, wherever he wishes himself to be he is convey'd with a thought thither; so that with it I take more pleasure than all my other riches bestow. Then thought Fortunatus, how well would this hat agree with my purse: and said to the soldan, Since this hat hath such virtue sure it must be very heavy on his head who weareth it. No, said the soldan, it is no heavier than another hat; and thereupon he gave it in his hands, and bid him put it upon his head, asking him if he felt it otherwise? Then said Fortunatus, I did not think that it had been so light, nor supposed you would have set it on my head; and with that he suddenly wished himself on board

his ship, which was then under sail, to return to his own country. The soldan looking out of his window, & seeing the ship under sail was extraordinary angry, and commanded his men to fetch him back, threatening, if he could but take him, to put him to death: but all in vain; Fortunatus was too quick for them, and arrived safe in his own country with his ship laden with rich goods, where he was joyfully received by his wife and two sons, and the citizens of Famagosta.

Fortunatus having travelled over most parts of the world, and wanting nothing of worldly riches that his heart could wish, began now to tender the advancement of his children, and provided skilful men to instruct them in all manner of learning and feats of chivalry, in which the youngest was most inclined to behave himself manfully; which caused Fortunatus to bestow many rich jewels for justing at Famagosta, where the youngest son won the victory. Fortunatus after this, passed his days in great

pleasure, with the hat, and hawking
with his son Andalocia and his wife
Cassandra.

When he had many years enjoyed
all earthly happiness, fair Cassandra
was summoned by a grievous sickness
to her grave, which so inwardly
grieved Fortunatus, that he languish'd
with a deep consumption, which put
him in mind to prepare for death.

C H A P. IX.

*Fortunatus on his Death-bed declares to
his Sons the Virtue of his Purse & Hat.*

FORTUNATUS perceiving his
death approach, sent for his
two sons, saying to them, My dear
children, Ampedo and Andalocia,
God hath taken away your mother
that brought you up, and I also per-
ceiving death approaching, will shew
you how you may live in honour and
wealth as I have done. Then he de-
clared to them the virtue of his purse,

and that it would last no longer than both their lives; he also told them the virtue of the wishing-hat, and ordered them not to part with those jewels, but to keep them in common, and live friendly together, and that they should not make any person privy to the virtue of the purse, though never so beloved of them. I have, said he, concealed the virtue of it forty years, and never revealed it to any one save to you.

Having said this, and given them several wholesome instructions, he ceased speaking, and gave up the ghost. His sons buried him honourably in the church that he had built, within a stately tomb.

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